

Application No. 09/697,777

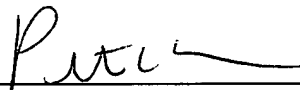
pending patent Application No. 09/654,376, filed September 1, 2000; co-pending patent Application No. 09/533,022, filed March 22, 2000; co-pending patent Application No. 09/651,006, filed August 29, 2000; and co-pending patent Application No. 09/522,184, filed March 9, 2000.

**REMARKS**

Applicant is filing herewith a number of references cited in co-pending, commonly owned, U.S. Patent applications. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims currently pending in this case are patentably distinguishable over the cited references, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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